



Minutes NV COMMUNICATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

DATE	June 3, 2003
TIME	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
LOCATION	2525 South Carson Street – Carson City 555 East Washington Street – Las Vegas
RECORDER	Maggie Thorne

ATTENDANCE

Carson City Members	Present	Las Vegas Members	Present
Terry Savage, Chair, Dept of Information Technology	✓	Doug Carriger, Lincoln County	✓
Robert Chisel, Dept of Transportation	✓	Bill Donahoe, US Dept of Energy	✓
Neil Harris, Elko County Sheriff's Office	✓	Ray Flynn, Las Vegas Metro Police Dept	✓
Cherrill Cristmas, NV Health Division		Roy Divan sitting in for Bob Lossle, FBI	✓
Freeman Johnson, Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	✓	Dave Edwards sitting in for James Spinello, Clark County	✓
Chris Perry sitting in for Dave Hosmer Dept of Public Safety	✓	Lou Amwell sitting in for Jack Staley, LV Valley Water District	✓
Roy McDonald sitting in for Dan Newell, City of Yerington	✓		
Tom Gadd sitting in for Ralph Jaack, City of Reno	✓		
Bill Welch, NV Hospital Association			

Staff

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mark Blomstrom, Dept of Information Technology	✓	Shane Chesney, Attorney General's Office	✓
Maggie Thorne, Dept of Information Technology	✓	Dave McTeer Dept of Administration	
Jim Wilson, Clark County/SNACC	✓		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Terry Savage call the meeting to order at 1 AM. The meeting was televised between Carson City and Las Vegas.

The roll call was conducted by Maggie Thorne. Present: 7 members, 5 alternates.
Absent: 3.

The minutes of the May meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Freeman Johnson and seconded by Robert Chisel to approve. Motion carried.

A brief discussion was held on whether alternates could act as voting members of the Committee when they attended as representatives for the actual member. Until the matter could be decided, Mr. Savage officially appointed Chris Perry as replacement for Dave Hosmer.

II. GRANT UPDATE – FEMA INTEROPERABILITY

Mark Blomstrom updated the members on the grant that was delivered to the Division of Emergency Management for review. In summary, the thrust of the grant application for 60K would hire a consultant who would study and develop a matrix of interoperability needs, not the technology side, but operationally across the state. DEM has requested additional information and that is the status to date.

III. APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT

After much discussion, the following motion was made by Freeman Johnson and seconded by Neil Harris to approve. Motion carried.

It is the mission of the Nevada Communications Steering Committee to facilitate the planning, development and operation of interoperable communication systems for use between government officials and emergency response agencies in Nevada.

IV. DRAFT PRINCIPLES/HIGH LEVEL REQUIREMENTS POINTS

Mark Blomstrom discussed the contract that the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) has with Gartner Group, a firm that provides technology research. Mark mentioned that Gartner Group is willing to research what other states are doing with respect to communication. Mark would then schedule Gartner Group to do an hour presentation before the Committee on their findings and actual case studies. Mark said he would arrange this for the next meeting of NCSC. Neil Harris suggested that Gartner present a case study that would be similar to Nevada (with the rural and city situations, as well as topographical). Mark said he would ask Gartner to focus on those similarities.

Dave Edwards did mention that one item that needs to be done very soon is for the Committee to develop its interoperability requirements.

V. DISCUSSION OF Project 25 (P25) STANDARDS

Jim Wilson, Chairman of the Technical Subcommittee, discussed Project 25. Mr. Wilson distributed a document he downloaded from the P25 website. (www.project25.org) He explained that P25 is a user driven effort to develop digital standards for wireless communication users. P25 addresses such issues as backward compatibility and graceful migration, scalable trunked and conventional capabilities, spectral efficiency and interoperability. He said that P25 have been adopted by the Department of Justice for 2004. It has also been adopted by the FCC, but not mandated.

Mr. Savage asked the Technical Subcommittee to analyze P25 and come back to the committee with observations and more detail on what it is, what it isn't and how much it would cost the State. Mr. Wilson said that he would report back in layman terms at the next meeting.

VI MEMBER UPDATES AND COODINATION

Mr. Savage indicated that this "Member Updates/Coordination" would become a regular agenda item to allow exchanging information on projects that each member's organization is doing. Mr. Savage said they would be recruiting others to participate and asked that anyone who was interested should contact Mark Blomstrom.

Ken Adams from DoIT agreed to speak on the phases of the state microwave system. Phase One established digital service that runs from Reno, to Carson, to Las Vegas. Phase 2, which is currently being worked on, will provide connectivity from Vegas to Ely. Mr. Adams said it basically is the "highway" that all radio systems run over. In this phase there will be enhancements to 9 sites – 6 would be infrastructure upgrades and 3 would be new. Glendale, Mt. Wilson and Ella Mt would be new. Upgrades would included: Grant Sawyer Building, Apex Peak, Beaver Dam, Cave Mt, Squaw Peak, and Ryan Service Center. Phase 3 funding has been requested and appears to be funded for this upcoming biennium. Full project completion is still several years away, but each phase is placed in operation as it is completed. This microwave system is available for use by all government agencies statewide.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATED

Mr. Savage discussed the passage of AB441 and how there had been 4 security bills introduced this session. AB441 and SB175 (a DoIT introduced security bill) merged together with an Executive Branch Commission rather than a Legislative Branch Commission. Robert Chisel expressed a concerned with Sections 30 and 31 and asked if they were deleted. Mr. Savage indicated they were still a part of the bill but the implementation dates were changed to July 1, 2005. That would not have any affect until the next session, and could be amended at that time if necessary.

Mark spoke on SB499 that addresses making an appropriation to IFC in regards to Dept of Public Safety radio communication. It has passed both houses and is headed to the Governor for signature. This appropriation of funds would allow DPS to migrate to the 700/800 MHz Dept of Transportation's shared system. The bill passed with the appropriation going to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) in order that DPS can go to IFC, and with a showing of need and a plan, get authority to use the funds.

VIII PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm

Future Meeting: July 1, 2003 – 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Carson City: Division of Emergency Management, 2525 S. Carson Street
Vegas: Governor's Conference Room, 555 E. Washington Street

Minutes are posted on the website at: <http://doit.nv.gov/ncsc.htm>

Questions Call: 775-684-5859 or email maggiet@doit.state.nv.us

Draft minutes submitted by Maggie Thorne, 6/5/03

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____